



**OCTOBER 13, 2005**

## **HEALTH ADVISORY**

### **Mississippi Requests EMS Personnel To Help Identify and Recover Human Remains**

The state of Mississippi has issued an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) notice requesting 60 trained professionals to serve as “Debris Spotters,” assigned with debris removal crews to observe for human body remains. This is a recovery mission. Responders can be members of fire and police departments or EMS personnel. The volunteers will assist the coroner’s office in Harrison County, Mississippi.

The 60 spotters will be configured into two groups of 30 volunteers each. The first 30 will be deployed from October 15 through November 1. The second group of 30 will be deployed from November 1 through November 11.

The North Dakota Department of Health is compiling a list of EMS personnel interested in volunteering. EMS professionals who would like to be considered for a response team are asked to register through the state’s Public Health Emergency Volunteer Reserve (PHEVR). Registration can be completed online at [www.ndhan.gov](http://www.ndhan.gov) using the “Hurricane Katrina” link. The Department of Health will submit volunteer information to EMAC on Friday, October 14. **To be considered for these deployments, please register by 10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 14.**

The Department of Health will contact you with further instructions if EMS professionals from North Dakota will be activated and deployed. Volunteers in Mississippi will be working in austere conditions. Volunteers should respond with the following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Safety Helmet
- Coveralls
- Safety shoes/boots
- Eye protection (goggles, safety glasses)
- Respiratory Protection Masks (N 95 or equivalent-minimum)
- Work gloves (leather)
- Hearing protection

Deployment of volunteers from North Dakota will be made through North Dakota Department of Emergency Services using the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Through EMAC, a disaster-impacted state can request and receive assistance from other member states. Responding through EMAC is necessary to ensure that volunteers are protected from unforeseen accidents, injuries and legal actions.

Anyone who has questions about this advisory can contact the North Dakota Department of Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Section at 701.328.2270.

*Categories of Health Alert messages:*

- *Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.*
- *Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.*
- *Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.*
- *Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.*

*This message is being sent to North Dakota EMS professionals.*